

DOCKET No. 2002.02.002.NS0

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PATENT

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the abstract with the following new abstract:

A switch for handling call connections between calling devices and called devices on trunk lines of the switch. The switch comprises a main processing unit for executing call process client applications. Each call process client application is associated with a call connection. The switch also comprises N call application nodes for executing call process server applications. A first call process server application executed on a first call application node is associated with a similar second call process server application executed on a separate second call application node. The first and second call process server applications form a first load sharing group server application. Each call process client application sends a call process service request to the first load sharing group server application, which selects one of the first and second call process server applications to perform the requested call process service according to a load distribution algorithm.